

Facilities and Construction

Total Request: \$42,741,000
ORF: \$9,829,000
PAC: \$ 32,912,000



The NWS Office in Green Bay, Wisconsin.
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/grb/photogal.html>

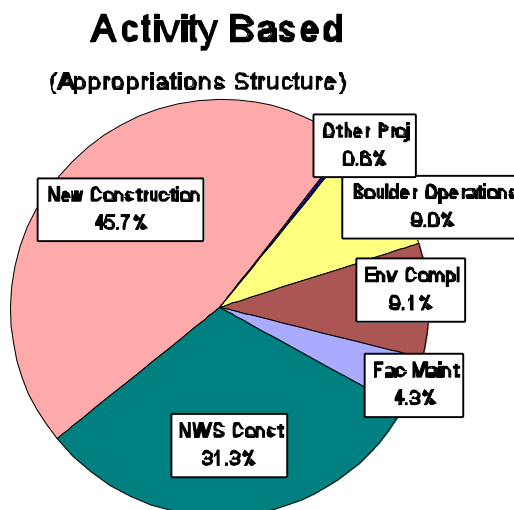
The following narrative describes the total NOAA program activities relating to land acquisition; the construction of new facilities; repairs, preventive actions, modifications and additions to existing facilities; facilities maintenance, environmental compliance, safety and health; and for facilities consolidation, in the most economical, efficient and effective manner. The detailed narrative has been divided to show the Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF) and Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction (PAC) accounts.

The Facilities FY 2000 base reflects the transfer of the Sandy Hook Lease and Columbia River Facilities to NMFS and the NEXRAD WFO Maintenance to NWS.

FACILITIES (ORF) Total Request: \$9,829,000

NOAA Facilities Maintenance - As the NOAA-owned facilities have an average age of 30 years, investment in significant, major repairs and upgrades becomes increasingly critical. Major systems in many facilities are well past their design life and require maintenance, repair or replacement to ensure that the facilities remain available to support NOAA's programs. NOAA requests \$1.8 million in FY 2000 for facilities maintenance activities.

Environmental Compliance and Cleanup - This program provides for activities necessary to: (1) comply with existing laws and safety regulations; (2) identify environmental problems and



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engage in required cleanup; and (3) provide guidance to NOAA program managers engaged in the receipt, handling, use and disposal of hazardous materials. In accordance with Federal law, NOAA will also establish the environmental status and correct deficiencies discovered at NOAA facilities prior to their transfer to other Federal agencies or to the private sector. NOAA requests \$3.9 million in FY 2000, an increase of \$1.9 million over the FY 2000 level.

Boulder Facilities Operations - NOAA requests \$3.8 million to fund recurring Boulder facilities operations, including the higher lease, utility, custodial, and security costs associated with the 24-hour operations at the new Boulder laboratory.

Other Requests in ORF - NOAA requests \$0.3 million for National Archives and Records Administration Records Management to meet record storage costs.

CONSTRUCTION (PAC) Total Request: \$ 32,912,000

Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Construction - NOAA requests a total of \$13.4 million for WFO Construction in the PAC Construction Account. This represents an increase of \$3.8 million from the FY 2000 base. The WFOs provide forecasters with modernized facilities supporting the new advanced technology systems and the provision of weather services to the public. The request will provide funding for existing WFO leases and continue facility retrofit projects. The retrofits are necessary to meet current usage requirements as well as safety and fire code regulations. The request will also provide funding for the NWS/FAA Alaska Employee Housing Project at remote sites in Alaska.

National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS) - NOAA requests a total of \$12.0 million to meet operational needs for NERRS and provide additional protection of key estuarine habitats through land acquisition and construction of facilities for existing and new reserves. The System will expand from its current 22 reserves to an anticipated total of 27 reserves by the end of FY 2000. Over 540,000 acres of estuarine habitat are currently protected by NERRS, which will increase to over 1,000,000 acres with the addition of five new reserves and ongoing acquisition efforts. However, a majority of reserves have identified additional, near-by critical habitat in need of protection and to serve as places for conducting long-term science, education, and demonstration programs.

Examples of acquisitions that would be accomplished include: wetlands and other habitat slated for development; threatened and endangered species habitat; areas for habitat restoration; additional areas for conducting long-term research on water quality, land uses, and estuarine functions; and sites for construction of NERRS public facilities. Additional funding is also needed for facility construction at each of 5 new reserves (in Alaska, Mississippi, Florida, California, and New York), and for supplementing or updating facilities at the existing 22 reserves. This increase would provide funds to develop

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construction plans and initiate construction of core facilities at the new reserves. Additions or renovations at existing reserves would be funded based on current needs for implementing core NERRS programs and external opportunities.

Alaska Facilities, Juneau - NOAA requests a total of \$1.0 million to continue the current scoping work for the eventual formal design and construction of a new NMFS research facility near Juneau, Alaska. The facility would replace the current outdated Auke Bay lab and expand NMFS groundfish and ecosystem research capabilities significantly, as well as provide for a focal point for national and international conferences and meetings addressing the valuable marine resources of the North Pacific.

Marine Sanctuaries - NOAA is requesting an increase of \$3.0 million to develop a comprehensive facilities plan for the National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) Program that prioritizes needs and opportunities at individual sites and to construct sanctuary visitor centers and collaborative education projects. One of the most significant hurdles to interpreting and understanding the value of the unique and significant resources of the Sanctuaries is their location off-shore, limiting direct access for most of the public. Crucial to appreciating these resources and their importance is a direct link between the resources and the people. Currently, the program has no means to provide this visitor experience. Projects in FY 2000 would include development of a visitor center for NOAA's Florida Keys NMS that takes advantage of a current opportunity for an interagency partnership (with the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) on surplus Navy property in Key West; and development of outreach/education facilities with aquaria for the Monterey Bay and Stellwagen Bank NMSs. The result will be the development of public visitor centers that support an expanded marine education and outreach effort for the Nation's most significant marine protected areas.

NOAA NESDIS and NWS Operations Centers Rehabilitation - NOAA requests an increase of \$3.5 million for the NOAA Operations Center Rehabilitation at Federal Building #4 (FB4), Suitland Federal Center, Maryland. NOAA requires these funds for the launch and command of GOES N-Q satellites. NESDIS must have this capability in order to continue support of its GOES satellite data mission. In FY 2000, \$3.0 million is required for NESDIS for a minimum level of repair and renovation to existing space to accommodate the 7,000 square foot expansion needs for command and control and support activities for the GOES N-Q satellites. The renovation work includes HVAC replacement, rehabilitation of raised flooring, replacement of ceilings/lighting, rehabilitation of windows and asbestos abatement. The GOES N-Q ground system equipment is being acquired through a fixed price contract with delivery scheduled for March 2000. NESDIS must have its facility prepared for the delivery and installation at that time, or it will incur significant delay costs under the contract. In FY 2000, \$0.5 million is required for backup power generators for the Class VIII Supercomputer in FB4.

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This is a NWS/NCEP requirement to prevent disruption of service to the Class VIII Supercomputer.

Adjustments-to-base, program reductions and terminations are shown in Section 4: Supplementary Information.

FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION
(\$ IN THOUSANDS)

GOAL BASED ORF and PAC	FY 1999 ENACTED		FY 2000 BASE		FY 2000 PRES. REQUEST		INC./DEC. (REQUEST - BASE)	
	FTE	AMT.	FTE	AMT.	FTE	AMT.	FTE	AMT.
Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services	9	19,017	9	16,023	9	18,390		2,367
Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecast	1	185		186		165		(21)
Predict and Assess Decadal-to-Centennial Change		196		197		190		(7)
Promote Safe Navigation		68		69		156		87
Build Sustainable Fisheries	8	14,980	8	8,538	8	6,300		(2,238)
Recover Protected Species	2	1,736	2	1,743	2	1,705		(38)
Sustain Healthy Coasts	1	11,279	1	11,284	1	15,835		4,551
TOTAL Facilities and Construction	21	47,461	20	38,040	20	42,741	0	4,701